

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW ARANEIDÆ OF NEW
SOUTH WALES. No. 4.

BY W. J. RAINBOW.

(Plate x.)

Family DRASSIDÆ.

Genus DRASSUS, Walck.

DRASSUS PERELEGANS, sp.nov.

(Plate x. figs. 1 and 1a.)



♀. Cephalothorax 2 mm. long, 1·5 mm. broad; abdomen, 3 mm. long, 1·5 mm. broad.

Cephalothorax yellow-brown, furnished with few short yellow hairs. *Clypeus* broad, moderately convex, yellowish-brown; cephalic segment tinged with red at apex, and fringed with short yellowish hairs.

Eyes seated on anterior part of cephalothorax, in two curved diverging rows, the posterior of which is the longer and more curved.

Legs strong, moderately long, yellowish, furnished with rather long spines and hairs; each tarsus terminating with two claws and scopula; relative lengths 1, 2, 4, 3.

Palpi rather short, similar in armature to legs.

Falces yellowish, furnished with rather long coarse hairs or bristles; they are powerful, conical, and articulated on an inclined plane.

Maxilla concolorous, broad, convex, inclined inwards, furnished with a few short yellowish hairs.

Labium concolorous also, short, broad, and rounded off at extremity.

Sternum cordate, sparingly furnished with short hairs; similar in colour to foregoing parts.

Abdomen oblong-ovate, moderately convex, slightly projecting over base of cephalothorax; colour, pale yellow; the superior surface is ornamented with two longitudinal bands of bright red, commencing near centre, and terminating towards posterior extremity, where they nearly meet, their inner margins rough and irregular.

Hab.—Sydney.

The *Drassidæ* construct silken cells which they fabricate among the branchlets and leaves of plants, in the crevices of rocks and walls, and under stones; some species form a cell by bending over the leaves at the extremity of the branchlets and binding them in position with web, lining the interior with the same material. The latter is the form of dwelling constructed by *Drassus perelegans*. These spiders conceal themselves in their cells, quitting them only when in quest of prey, which they capture either by surprise or active pursuit.

Family EPEIRIDÆ.

Sub-Family GASTERACANTHIDÆ.

Genus CYRTARACHNE, Thor.

The singular spider herein described closely resembles *Cyrtarachne furcata*, Camb.,* but differs from that not only in coloration and ornamentation, but also in the number and distribution of the tubercles upon the abdomen, as well as in the general contour of the latter.

The *Gasteracanthidæ* are remarkable for the hard, horny epidermis of the abdomen, but in the specimen at present under consideration the epidermis is soft and tumid.

* P.Z.S., 1877, pp. 560-2, Plate LVI., fig. 2.

The chief centre of interest in this remarkable spider is its cephalothorax, represented by fig. 2, plate x., on which there are several horn-like protuberances or prongs (seven in all); the tubercular (central) ocular eminence is somewhat the largest and strongest, is directed slightly forward, whilst in *C. furcata* it is perpendicular; in the specimen described in this paper, there are in conjunction with the central ocular eminence and proceeding from its base, two lateral "arms," distinctly, though in a much smaller degree, elevated above the surface of the cephalothorax, jutting out laterally, and directed slightly forward; placed in front, but in a somewhat lateral position, and at the summit of the tubercular ocular eminence, are four eyes, arranged in two rows, and these are the largest of the eight; at the extremity of each "arm" there are two minute eyes closely contiguous to each other.

The horn-like protuberances arranged along the middle of the clypeus (with the exception of two) are exceedingly prominent, and in addition to these the cephalothorax is furnished with rather long coarse hairs.

The abdomen of this spider gives the creature a most extraordinary hirsute appearance. It is thickly clothed with long hairs, and these are much longer and coarser than are those of the cephalothorax. The legs, too, are also thickly clothed with the same material, which project at right angles.

The type specimen is in the collection of the Australian Museum, to the Trustees of which Institution I am indebted, not only for allowing me access to it, but also for their courtesy in granting me permission to describe this extraordinary spider, and enabling me to make those notes necessary for the production of this paper.

CYRTARACHNE CALIGINOSA, sp.nov.

(Plate x. figs. 2, 2a, 2b.)

♀. Cephalothorax 3 mm. long, 4 mm. broad; abdomen 6 mm. long, 6 mm. broad.

Cephalothorax tuberculate, deeply curved inwards in front, dark brown (approaching sepia), glossy, furnished with a few long coarse hairs or bristles; *caput* elevated, terminating with a strong, prominent ocular eminence; *clypeus* broad, convex, exceedingly rough, furnished with six horn-like tubercles of a yellow-brown colour; the front lateral pair is much the smallest and widest apart, the second considerably larger and perpendicular, the third pair is the highest of the group, the tubercles placed one behind the other and united at their base, which is broad; of these latter the front tubercle is directed forward, and the second backward.

Eyes glossy black; the four intermediate eyes are the largest of the group, forming a square, and placed towards the summit of the tubercular ocular eminence, which is yellow-brown at its base and black at apex; those of each lateral pair are exceedingly minute and contiguous, and are placed at the extremity of an "arm-like" protuberance extending from the base of the tubercular ocular eminence.

Legs moderately long and strong, yellow-brown, furnished with long coarse hairs which stand out at right angles; each *tarsus* terminates with four curved claws, the two superior ones of which are much the longer and stronger, and have a row of teeth near their base on the underside. Relative lengths 1, 2, 4, 3.

Palpi moderately long, similar in colour and armature to the legs.

Falces inclined inwards, long, strong, dark brown, clothed with coarse and bristly hairs.

Maxille dull yellowish-brown, long, strong, inclined inwards, broadest at apex.

Labium concolorous, short, broad, rounded off at apex.

Sternum concolorous, cordate, sparingly hairy.

Abdomen broad-ovate, projecting over base of cephalothorax, convex; dull yellowish-brown, thickly clothed with exceedingly long yellowish coarse hairs; there are six lateral tubercles, the first pair of which is seated well forwards, and are somewhat the largest, the second and third pairs placed towards the posterior

extremity, and situated rather low down ; inferior surface similar in colour to superior, clothed with long coarse hairs, but the latter are not so long as those of the upper side.

Hab.—Sydney. Type in the collection of the Australian Museum.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

Fig. 1. —*Drassus perelegans*.

Fig. 1a.—Branchlet, showing leaves at the spur (A) bound together so as to form the nest.

Fig. 2. —*Cyrtarachne caliginosa*, profile, legs truncated.

Fig. 2a.— „ „ front view of cephalothorax, showing arrangement and position of eyes.

Fig. 2b.—*Cyrtarachne caliginosa*, right leg of first pair.